

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A telephone network comprising a ~~telephone-switching center~~center coupled to a subscriber line, and an enhanced service processing apparatus,

the switching ~~center~~center having event detection means for detecting and recording the occurrence of a predetermined event associated with the subscriber line, and call processing means responsive to an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via the subscriber line to selectively either:

(i) notify the enhanced service processing apparatus of that attempt when an occurrence of the predetermined event has been recorded by the event detection means, receiving switching control commands to establish or terminate said call, wherein the switching control commands are sent by the enhanced service processing apparatus in response to the notification, or:

(ii) establish or terminate said call connection without notifying the enhanced service apparatus such notification when an occurrence of the predetermined event has not been recorded by the event detection means;

~~according to whether occurrence of the predetermined event has been recorded by the detection means, the enhanced service processing apparatus~~

~~having means responsive to such notification to send switching control commands to the telephone switching centre.~~

2. (currently amended) A network according to claim 1, wherein the switching ~~centre~~center includes processing means including flag means, the processing means having means responsive to notification of said predetermined event to change the state of said flag means and, having means to determine, in dependence on the state of the flag means, whether to notify the enhanced service processing apparatus of an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via said subscriber line.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A network according to claim 2, wherein the processing means includes a plurality of flag means associated with respective predetermined events, the processing means having means to change the state of the associated flag means in response to notification of one of said predetermined events and selection means controlled in dependence on the states of the flag means, together with the flag means state information, the selection means being arranged to select whether to notify the enhanced service processing apparatus of

an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via said subscriber line, and to perform such notification if so selected.

5. (currently amended) A network according to claim 4, wherein the enhanced service processing apparatus has means to control the switching ~~center~~center in dependence on said flag state information.

6. (currently amended) A network according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the event ~~detecting~~detection means comprises a voice mail system, and the predetermined event ~~or one of the events~~ comprises storing of voice mail for the subscriber of said subscriber line.

7. (currently amended) A network according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the event ~~detecting~~detection means comprises a call charging system, and the predetermined event ~~or one of the events~~ comprises the call charge for the subscriber of said subscriber line exceeding a threshold value.

8. (currently amended) A method of processing calls in a telephone network comprising the steps of:

a) recording the occurrences of one or more predetermined events at a telephone switching ~~center~~center, said one or more predetermined events being associated with a subscriber line connected to the switching ~~center~~center;

b) detecting attempts to establish or terminate calls via the subscriber line;

c) determining whether a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching ~~center~~center; and

(i) if it is determined that a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching ~~center~~center;

then

notifying an enhanced service processing apparatus of the attempt;
generating switching control commands at the enhanced service processing apparatus; and

communicating said commands to the switching ~~center~~center to control the establishment or termination of said call; ~~but~~or

(ii) if it is determined that no record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events currently exists at the switching

~~center~~center; then

establishing or terminating the call using only the switching functions of the switching ~~center~~center.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein said one or more predetermined events comprises storing of voice mail.

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein said one or more predetermined events comprises ~~the exceeding of a threshold~~ value by a cumulative parameter relating to usage of the telephone ~~system~~network.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the recording of the occurrence of one or more of the ~~said~~predetermined events takes the form of erasure or cancellation of the recording of another of the ~~said~~predetermined events having occurred previously, such that the enhanced service processing apparatus is not then notified of further call attempts until a further occurrence of the ~~said~~previously-occurring predetermined event.

12. (currently amended) A telephone network comprising:
a telephone switching center coupled to a subscriber line; and
an enhanced service processing apparatus;
the switching center having an event detector for detecting and recording an occurrence of a predetermined event associated with the subscriber line, and a call processor responsive to an attempt to establish or terminate a call connection via the subscriber line to ~~select~~perform selection of one of the following processing

operations ~~without requiring the switching center to be able to distinguish between individual call types~~ based on whether or not the occurrence of the predetermined event associated with the subscriber line has been recorded by the event detector:

(i) notify the enhanced service processing apparatus of that attempt when the occurrence of the predetermined event has been recorded by the detector, the enhanced service processing apparatus sending switching control commands to the telephone switching center in response to such notification; or

(ii) establish or terminate said call connection without such notification when the occurrence of the predetermined event has not been recorded by the detector.

13. (currently amended) A method of processing calls in a telephone network comprising:

recording the occurrences of one or more predetermined events at a telephone switching center, said events being associated with a subscriber line connected to the switching center;

detecting attempts to establish or terminate calls via the subscriber line;

determining whether a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching center ~~without distinguishing between individual call types~~; and

performing selection of processing based on whether or not a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching center such that:

(i) if it is determined that a record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events exists at the switching center,
performing the following processing:

notifying an enhanced service processing apparatus of the attempt;

generating switching control commands at the enhanced service processing apparatus; and

communicating said commands to the switching center to control the establishment or termination of said call; but

(ii) if it is determined that no record of the occurrence of one or more of said predetermined events currently exists at the switching center,
performing the following processing:

establishing or terminating the call using only the switching functions of the switching center.